

California Department of Fish and Game
Climate Change Update
May 2009

- National F/W climate change adaptation strategy: The DFG supports this kind of national coordination-collaboration on climate change and is working with the FWS. A demo project being considered for the Bay Area “Adaptive Management for Coastal Ecosystems during rapid Climate Change”. DFG part of first planning meeting last week.
- Staff internal discussion on how to integrate climate change adaptation strategy into SWAP revision and if appropriate build off these ideas for a national strategy if one is created.

Climate Change Adaptation Strategies to Conserve California’s Biodiversity

- Create a large scale well connected, sustainable system of protected areas across the State.
- Manage for restoring and enhancing ecosystem function to conserve both species and habitats in a changing climate.
- Adjust management actions as appropriate for threatened and endangered species
- Prioritize research needs and pursue collaborative partnerships with the research community to ensure that the best available science is informing management actions.
- Re-evaluate existing policies and programs to incorporate climate change and seek regulatory changes as appropriate
- Pursue endeavors that will support implementation of the strategies including funding, capacity building, collaborative partnerships, and education and outreach.

- California Climate Adaptation Strategy
 - DFG has been part of an ongoing effort to develop a climate change adaptation strategy (CAS) for California as part of an Executive Order from the Governor directing the state to prepare for sea level rise and begin climate change adaptation planning (November 2008). The Department has solicited public comment and held several public meetings throughout the development process and is now preparing for a public release in June. This document will be also be integrated into California’s Wildlife Action Plan (Plan) as part of the Department’s commitment to updating the Plan to include a chapter dedicated to climate

change adaptation planning. The process of creating a climate change adaptation strategy for fish and wildlife is ongoing and DFG is committed to pursuing this process in the coming year.

- **“DFG Going Green”**: The Climate Change Program is establishing a guidance document to assist DFG offices and staff in becoming more energy efficient and carbon neutral. Comments and suggestions received from DFG employees are being compiled and the document is intended to become a DFG Initiative.
 - Reducing our internal Carbon Footprint: Member of Climate Action Registry and input our emissions info into database on time for 2nd year in a row. Need to automate the collection of this information in order to save significant man-hours (3000). Having this information will be an important baseline that we can measure the success of the DFG Going Green Initiative. Note: this kind of enhancement would not require any additional expenditure and could be implemented with existing staff. BMB has been in contact with ITB regarding this request.
- The Department recently became a member of California’s Climate Action Team (CAT) and Director Koch will sit on this team. The CAT is a special task force formed to develop a strategy for the state to meet the greenhouse gas emission-reduction goals and the creation and coordination of climate change adaptation planning. In addition, the Department is participating on several of the CAT subgroups that focus on different sector issues (forestry, public health, water, etc) to ensure that ecosystem and species conservation is a consideration in the development and implementation of climate change adaptation strategies outside of the Department’s purview.
- DFG employees in Region 1 recently initiated the formation of the first DFG Climate Change Regional Committee. This group now has 15 members and was formed to assist DFG Region 1 staff in better understanding and managing the numerous issues associated with climate change in their personal and professional lives. The group is taking on a variety of issues that will assist the Department in the process of integrating climate change into the Department’s activities.
- DFG Climate Change Activities at Regional and National Level: The Department continues to serve on several national and regional climate change working groups and committees. Including but not limited to AFWA climate change committee, WAFWA climate change committee, AFWA Climate Change and State Wildlife Action Plans (sponsored by funding from the Doris Duke

Charitable Fund to develop guidance for states to integrate climate change into their wildlife action plans) and Western Governor's Association.

- DFG Climate Change Goals: Unity—Integration—Action
 - Develop a climate change strategy within the Department's management and policy branches.
 - Integrate a thought process into all of our natural resources activities that actively addresses climate change.
 - Short term immediate needs: Internal policy changes, capacity building, partnerships, outreach, Nat'l-Regional-State level presence, mitigation & adaptation.
 - Inserting cc into all DFG documents—recently Project work plan detail checklist linked to strategic initiative “Expanding Scientific Capacity”
 - Long term planning efforts: adaptation strategy in CA's wildlife action plan.